Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02768 061653 Z

41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 130653
O R 061413 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8011
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2768

EXDISXD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI POLICIES TOWARD WEST BANK

REF: AMMAN 1793

1. EMBASSY IS REPORTING SEPARATELY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE CONFIRMATION WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT CABINET APRIL 8 WILL TAKE UP ISSUE OF PERMITTING ISRAELIS TO BUY LAND IN WEST BANK AND MAY BE ABLE, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS, TO REACH NEW POLICY DECISION AT THE SAME SESSION. ALSO RELEVANT IS FACT THAT DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL 6 TO HOLD ANOTHER, SUPPOSEDLY FINAL, SESSION IN LABOR PARTY DEBATE ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON APRIL 12, AT WHICH MRS. MEIR, DAYAN, AND GALILI WILL SPEAK. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE (SPOKESMAN OF LABOR PARTY), MRS. MEIR IS CONVENING HER KITCHEN CABINET APRIL 7 TO GO OVER PLANS FOR BOTH APRIL 8 CABINET DISCUSSION OF LAND PURCHASE ISSUE AND APRIL 12 DEBATE ON POLICY TOWARD TERRITORIES.

2. THERE IS NO WAY TO PREDICT WHETHER SIGNIFICANT, AS OPPOSED TO VERY LIMITED, POLICY SHIFTS WILL RESULT FROM THESE TWO IMPENDING MEETINGS. PRESSURES ON MRS MEIR ARE CONSIDERABLE IN THIS ELECTION YEAR TO OPEN WAY TO LARGE SCALE WEST BANK LAND PURCHASES AND CLOSER INTEGRATION OF WEST BANK WITH ISRAEL IN MANY OTHER WAYS, AS DAYAN WANTS. MRS MEIR BY ALL SIGNS REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN SITUATION. PRESSURES ARE PRODUCING
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MANY UTTERANCES BY POLITICAL FIGURES AND MUCH COMMENTARY, CREATING IMPRESSION (INCLUDING IN AMMAN-- REFTEL) THAT MORE IS ALREADY HAPPENING THAN IS THE CASE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPARTMENT SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHETHER TIME HAS COME FOR US TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE IN GOI WHO OPPOSE CREATION OF NEW FACTS IN WEST BANK BY REMINDER THAT USG HAS IMPORTANT INTERESTS, INTER ALIA IN JORDAN, WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY ANY CHANGE IN EXISTING GOI POLICY TOWARD WEST BANK. ANY SUCH REPRESENTATION IN OUR VIEW SHOULD INDICATE OUR APPRECIATION THAT THIS IS ELECTION YEAR IN ISRAEL, RESULTING IN MUCH THUNDER ON ISSUES LIKE THIS, AND SHOULD STRESS THAT OUR CONCERN IS ONLY ABOUT CONCRETE ACTIONS ON GROUND, NOT WORDS.
ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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